

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 898

By Ford

A RESOLUTION commending President Barack Obama for selecting Pat Summitt as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama has announced the legendary Patricia "Pat" Summitt, former head coach and current head coach emeritus of the University of Tennessee's women's basketball team, as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

WHEREAS, the Medal of Freedom is the Nation's highest civilian honor, presented to individuals who have made especially meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace, or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors; and

WHEREAS, in announcing her selection for this prestigious honor, President Obama recognized Coach Summitt's iconic status for the American public, both as the all-time winningest NCAA coach and as a courageous spokesperson in the fight against Alzheimer's and her personal battle with the disease; and

WHEREAS, President Obama lauded Coach Summitt's "both unparalleled success on the court and unrivaled loyalty from those who know her and those whose lives she has touched," and stated: "Pat's coaching career may be over, but I'm confident that her work is far from finished."; and

WHEREAS, Coach Summitt has taken the University of Tennessee Lady Vols to more Final Four appearances than any other coach and has the second best record of NCAA Championships in basketball; she has received numerous awards, including being named Naismith Women's Collegiate Coach of the Century; and

WHEREAS, as the 40th anniversary of the signing of Title IX fast approaches, "Coach Summitt's remarkable career reflects her rightful place in history as an unparalleled figure in

women's team sports," and her bravery and dedication in the fight against Alzheimer's through her work with the Pat Summitt Foundation is truly inspiring; and

WHEREAS, all Americans should draw strength and resolve from Coach Summitt and her inspirational example, and President Obama's selection of her as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom will serve to bring Americans together in collective appreciation of and gratitude for this remarkable coach, public servant, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend President Barack Obama for selecting Pat Summitt as a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom and thus recognizing Coach Summitt's importance to the State of Tennessee and her citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution to be transmitted to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of the United States of America.